

BURLINGTON HAWK EYE (IA.)
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This is oversight?

Those who have feared the Congress has put the CIA under too-tight wraps should be startled by the recent testimony of Stansfield Turner, intelligence chief, to the Senate Intelligence committee.

Turner objects to a provision in the proposed CIA charter that would require the agency to give Congress confidential advance notice of risky covert operations abroad.

Congress thinks it is getting such notice now. Turner offhandedly said it isn't. He has ordered several covert operations without telling Congress a thing.

The sum of his testimony is that Congress has only a slack rein on the CIA, and it is getting slacker.

Turner says he is prone to play a lone hand because of fear of leaks and the subsequent

danger to his agents. But he could point to no congressional leak, even under the present system which requires too many reports.

Is the CIA never to have a binding contract with the American people? Will it always be free to run its own show unfettered?

In today's present mood of fear and frustration, perhaps that will happen. We saw the results the past decade — including such foreign adventures as assassinations, coups and rigged elections.

Putting it simply, that's un-American. The CIA, as every other branch of government, needs some oversight from the people through their Congress.

Admirable as his motives may be, Stansfield Turner and his predecessors are law-breakers. They must be kept on a leash.